

# THE DC GAZETTE

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MAY 1975

## Dumping DC's trash More on neighborhood government



### *In this issue*

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Neil Seldman tells of a novel approach to handling the city's trash. . . Part II of our series on neighborhood government. . . A threat to city control over its health services. . . Josiah X. Swampoodle discovers a conspiracy against Ms. Sizemore. . . How your city council members voted last month. . . What's coming up next month. . . More information on the city in our ABDC Book. . . New bills introduced in the city council. . . And a few closing reflections on Benjamin Franklin.

# DC GAZETTE

VOL VI NR 5 MAY 1975

## DC EYE

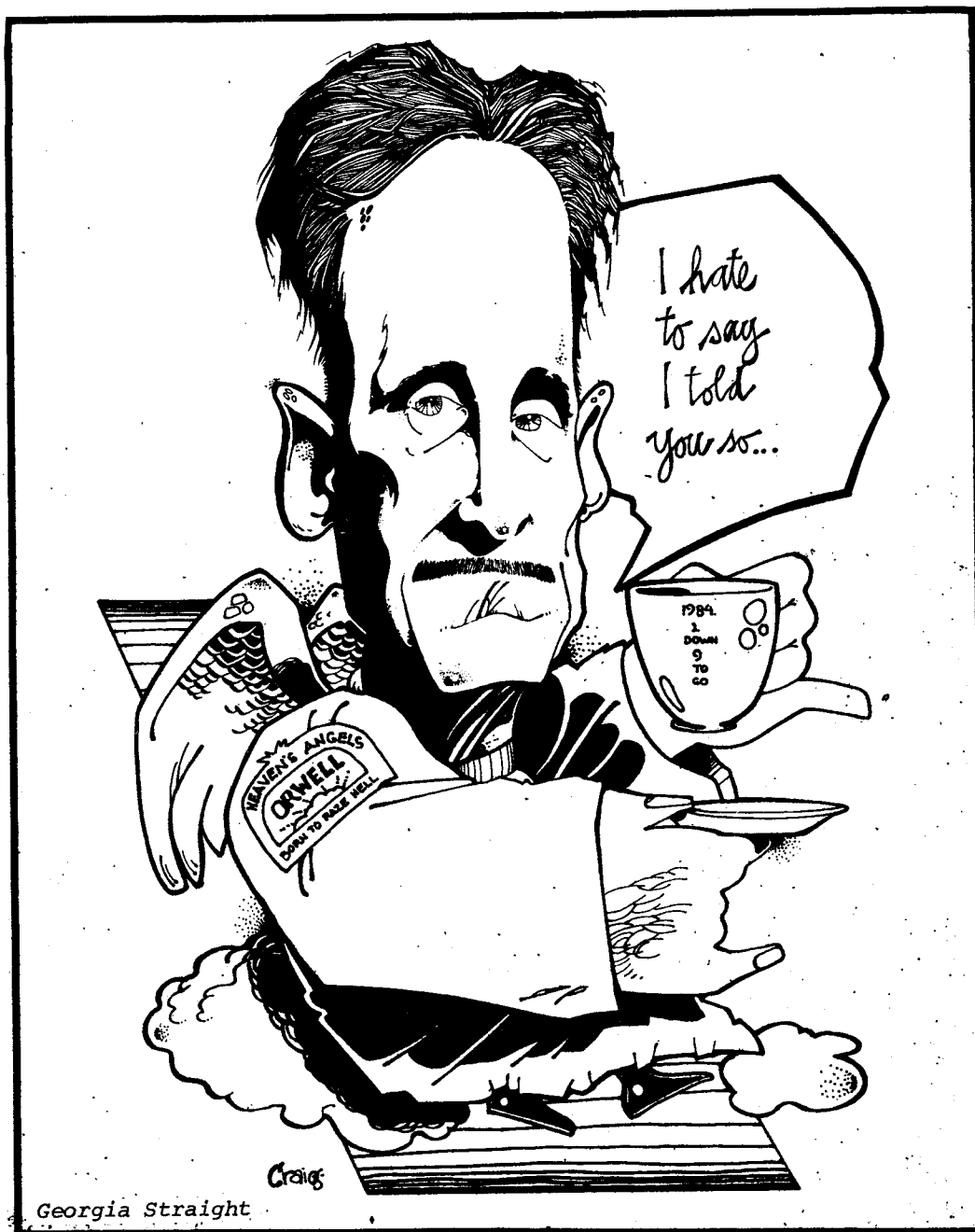
AS WE HAVE POINTED OUT IN THE PAST, one of the most serious threats to all local government is the federal government's funding and grants of power to non-democratic regional agencies like COG, Metro etc. Now a new regional threat has appeared. Under the National Health Planning and Resources Development Act of 1974 federal health funds would be distributed on a regional basis. HEW favors for this area a regional agency to plan and fund all services from Charles County, Maryland through the District and into Northern Va. As one critic has noted, the plan would put planning and funding "above and beyond the control of the District of Columbia citizens and elected officials."

Not only would regionalization take the control of health services out of the city's hands, but as Dr. Bette Catoe, director of the DC Health Planning Advisory Committee, has pointed out, regional planning "has not proven to be in the best interest of the District" in areas of transportation, housing or water control. In the case of transportation, regionalization "has been more costly" for the city.

The proposed theft of control over health services in the city has received little attention in the press, but it is one of the most important issues before the DC government.

ASIDE FROM one long freelance piece in the Sunday Star attacking the myths of mass transit, the corporate press has given no space to the strong arguments against completion of the subway system. Nonetheless, according to a recent Georgetown University poll, 25% of the residents of the city do not want it completed and another 9% don't know. Among blacks the total wanting completion of the subway is 64%. Only 49% of those with incomes of less than \$5000 want the subway completed and the figures rise with income — 80% of those earning more than \$20,000 a year want it finished. Given the incredibly one-sided coverage of this issue for more than a decade, the size of the opposition is surprising. When do the 25% of DC citizens who want to stop the subway get their side of the story into the media?

DON'T MAKE TOO MUCH OF the Public Service Commission's refusal to grant a temporary rate increase to Pepco. The decision deals with the narrow question of whether Pepco met the standards required for granting an emergency rate hike. In making its decision, the commission cited its own cases dating back to 1969. The real test of where the PSC will stand is still to come.



## DUMPING OUR TRASH

NEIL N. SELDMAN

THERE IS A CRISIS in solid waste management in this city. The volume of garbage will increase over the next year due to the Bicentennial celebrations (although locally generated trash is declining), while pollution requirements become even more stringent. Monetary and environmental impact costs will rise above levels already among the highest in the country for municipal waste collection and disposal. The current expenses for these services reaches approximately \$30 million; we pay from \$50-65 for every ton of garbage we collect and dispose of, or about twice the national average.

All experts agree that recycling is the only solution to the solid waste dilemma, especially since a court here has ruled that DC's incinerator violates pollution standards. Just two months ago a presidential advisory commission reported that a national recycling effort would save the country energy equivalent to 12 billion gallons of gasoline each year. Recycling is an integral part of the solution to our national energy and inflation crises.

There are three levels at which recycling must be approached:

- Federal legislation is needed to end subsidies to virgin material users. Tax incentives should instead support the use of recycled materials which are actually cheaper to use than virgin materials, once their subsidies which create an artificial market for them, are removed.
- Municipalities must ban products which contribute inordinately to the solid waste flow and make recycling difficult or impossible. Cities can also pass procurement regula-

(Please turn to next page)

tions for all supplies and equipment which demand the increase of product life, the reduction in the amount of raw material per product, the reduction of solid waste material per product, and minimum levels of recycled materials to be contained in products. The 'bottle bill' passed by the city council last year and again before the council is one example of such legislation.

• Communities must be allowed and encouraged to undertake recycling alternatives which rely on low impact, low capital intensive technology. Such systems have been successfully operating on a self-sufficient basis in at least one other large city. A similar system has already begun in Mt. Pleasant and Adams Morgan, designed to deal with the city's waste situation. Private parties have already invested over \$250,000 in this recycling effort. In addition, EPA is funding a pilot project outside of Boston.

The Mt. Pleasant/Adams Morgan recycling network is designed for the pickup of separated garbage (glass, aluminum, metals and plastics) from households, apartment houses and businesses. The plan calls for collected garbage to be taken to centrally located bin sites in the community from which the bins are hauled for processing and marketing. The system's prospectus calls for 5 full time workers plus 8 youth interns from the Youth Opportunity Services program for every 500 units served. The pilot project involves 500 units. Capital costs are approximately \$8000, and repayment of loans and amortization fees could be completed within 1 1/2 years. If extrapolated for the entire city only about \$2 million would be needed to create a system for handling 1200 tons of daily household garbage here.

This proposal offers a direct alternative to the complex

\$10.4 million resource recovery system, designed to handle only 650 tons per day, which the mayor proposed this year. The city's suggested system has extremely high acquisition, maintenance and operation costs. Huge and complicated technology is needed to separate various recyclable materials that could be more easily separated before collection. Collection of separated garbage also requires less capital investment. Large \$30,000 compactor trucks getting only 4-5 miles per gallon are not required. The new technology system suggested in the mayor's budget does not improve collection operations — which account for about two-thirds of DC's solid waste expenditures. Moreover, the resource recovery system depends on large inputs of garbage to make them economically feasible. Thus 'bottle bills' become "uneconomical" for the city. (The National Center for Resource Recovery's report states that container legislation will cause a 28% decrease in income from the sale of recycled materials recovered from the proposed plant.) Furthermore, the recovery system does not get the maximum energy or economic value for the materials it would burn as fuel. Quality office paper, a vast resource in DC, is worth \$60 a ton. Burning this for fuel would only realize about \$5 a ton. The proposed plant at present is not designed to recover glass and processes would have to be worked out in order for it to recover aluminum successfully. In short, it is an ill-conceived, poorly designed and untested resource recovery system.

The approach to solid waste problems taken by Environmental Services has not been a responsible one. It has failed.

(Please turn to page 4)

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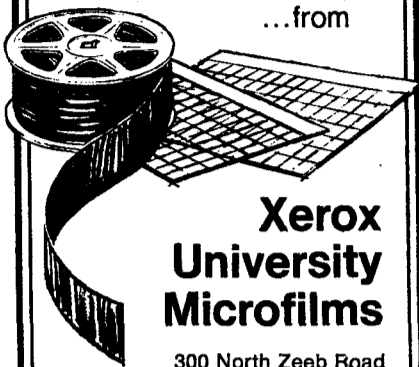
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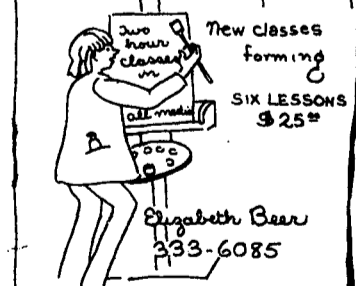
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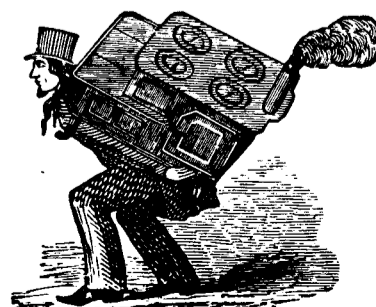
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Elizabeth Beer  
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ed to provide citizens with accurate information. There has been no public debate over alternatives. Only in the past few weeks have citizens been permitted to find out the details of the proposed resource recovery plant and still the facts are obscure.

The citizens of DC are being committed, through administrative decisions, to costly technology which may be completely inappropriate to the problems at hand. Once this commitment is made there is no turning back except at very great costs. Citizens have not been made aware that a far better system can serve us with considerable flexibility for the future and that it is already partially operative.

The alternative recycling approach has many advantages:

- It can be set up at far less capital cost than the contemplated recovery plant.
- It provides jobs in the community and several spinoff businesses such as the sale of paper made from recycled stock.
- It can earn money for a neighborhood development corporation.
- It can use long range market commitments for recycled goods already obtained for the city through previous contract arrangements with the promoters of the centralized recovery facility.
- It cuts down on pollution.
- Neighborhood recycling businesses can take full advantage of the Small Business Administration's '502' loan program for inner city development corporations securing low interest, long-term loans for the purchase of land, construction, expansion or remodeling of buildings and the purchase of operating equipment and machinery.
- It can use federal public works funds already allocated DC.

With such an alternative, Washington could be the first major city to adopt a suitable solid waste system.

— NEIL N. SELDMAN

Neil N. Seldman is co-director of the Institute for Local Self Reliance. For more information on the alternative waste system described above, contact him at the Institute for Self Reliance, 1717 18th St. NW, DC 20009 (232-4108).



THE DC GAZETTE is the little paper that has been the leading journalistic opponent of freeways in DC... helped defeat the convention center boondoggle... exposed the urban development corporation scheme and helped to kill the plan... introduced the idea of bike-ways and statehood... first exposed the National Visitors Center ripoff... has been the consistent and accurate critic of Metro... was the only local paper to endorse Clifford Alexander for mayor... first revealed the gross inequities in the property tax system that later became the target of successful court suits.

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## II

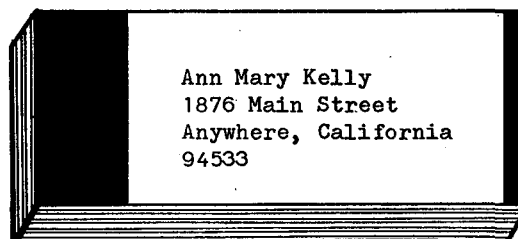
SAM SMITH

This is the second part of a two-part series on neighborhood government. If you wish the first part, send 50¢ to the DC Gazette, 109 8th St. NE, Capitol Hill, DC 20002. Ask for the April issue.

Neighborhood government is pragmatic as the source of planning. We need not run over again the long list of planning horrors in this city, many of which even those in the District Building will now admit were less than salutary. Consider only where the opposition to these projects came: from the affected communities. Here's where the real planning knowledge resides. There is no way one can plan for a community without knowing the turf. Those in a particular community may disagree sharply over what the community needs but this is still a matter best decided at the community level. At the very least, the legislation setting up the neighborhood councils should prohibit the city government from planning for a community without giving that community a year and adequate funds to come up with its plan first. The city's communities are tired of being at the tail end of planning and of being pieces on the chessboard of the Municipal Planning Office.

Neighborhood government is also pragmatic socially. Community, all it means and all it can do, cannot be legislated and it can not be created by an appropriation. It is the business of people doing business and having fun together, helping and arguing together, finding that they are not alone. While you may not need community to pick up trash or

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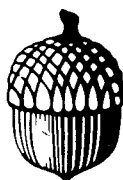
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put out a fire, you can not reduce crime, educate children or provide numerous social services without it. Let's take one example: the law.

We are staggering under the budgetary load created by the great expansion of the police, courts and prisons in recent years. We are not only paying a high price but we are getting little more with our money than we had before.

The conventional wisdom is that we must improve the police, reform our courts and make our prisons better places. I'm not sure we can wait that long.

There is another way of approaching the problem. First, most law enforcement comes not as a result of government action but is the product of a social compact between people, sometimes expressed and sometimes just tacitly accepted. This compact is reenforced by the dominant values of a community, group pressures and the level of support given individuals by other members of the community. It is a part of what community is about.

Yet we find that the community plays no part in the maintenance of law other than peripheral roles as witnesses and

jurors in court cases, often a deeply disillusioning affair. If a youth is picked up for vandalism or purse snatching, it immediately becomes the city's business—not the community's. This seems to be dead wrong. While there may be little a community can do about murderers, rapists and bigtime drug dealers; there is plenty it can do about the minor crime and small civil cases that clog the court dockets and ultimately lead to the filling of the jails.

The community is far better equipped to deal with such matters than the police, courts or prisons. It could do so if we turned our attention from attempting to reform cops, lawyers and judges and set about to find ways of doing without them.

For one thing, we could have neighborhood constables. Unarmed, with no uniform other than a badge and no powers beyond those of a private security guard, the constables could specialize in handling minor offenses and disputes. The constable's job would not be to turn people over to

## Swampoodle's Report

LAST MONTH Barbara Sizemore suggested in a speech that the problem with the DC school system is the whites running it. This foray into social studies by our superintendent whose other views include the thought that social studies are "redundant" left some people confused. Among the thousands of people working for the school system there are only four whites whom Ms. Sizemore can't fire, transfer or otherwise neutralize. Even these four, who sit on the school board, are neatly balanced by Ms. Sizemore's four-member majority on the board consisting of Barbara Simmons, John Warren, Bettie Benjamin and Ruth Goodwin.

Nonetheless, I can reliably report that there is, indeed, a white conspiracy against Ms. Sizemore and that despite its apparently small size, it has been responsible for virtually everything that has gone wrong at the Presidential Building since Ms. Sizemore arrived.

The leadership of this cabal is centered in a nefarious foursome skilled in the art of usurpation, namely one unkempt priest (who often tries to hide his religious affiliation by removing his collar and using dirty words), a Northwest Republican, an overaged hippie and a propagandist for a library.

But this is just the tip of the iceberg. Behind this group is a cadre of operatives, most of whom work undercover as students in the physical education department of Hawthorne School or as members of the cello section of the DC Youth Orchestra. Known respectively as the Dumbers and Cointelhonk, the provocateurs from Hawthorne and the DCYO have been causing constant mischief at the Presidential Building.

A reliable source, carrying his cello as a disguise, met me at Chez Brown the other evening to reveal what has been going on. In order not to be overheard, we spoke only when the opera singer was performing some of Ms. Sizemore's favorite arias. I asked my source what he and his coconspirators were up to.

"Basically, we've been trying to institutionalize racism in the school system. We're trying to regain the ground we lost in the '50s and '60s and let me tell you it hasn't been easy."

"Why not?"

"With 95% of the school children black, a black superintendent, a black mayor and black majorities on the city council and school board, if you want to institutionalize white racism you've got to work at it every day. No falling back on tradition and old ties, that sort of thing."

"Must be tough," I said.

"Yeah, but then Watergate came along and we discovered dirty tricks. It helped alot. We started small, you know. Misplace vouchers, sneak the wrong numbers into the budget, that sort of stuff."

"But then we began exploring bigger operations. We printed calendars with the wrong dates on them so all reports would be submitted late. Then we

wrote to teachers and told them they were transferred in the middle of the year to meet the requirements of the Wright Decision, HEW guidelines or anything else we could think of. The idea was to keep them moving. Of course, the administration didn't want to admit that someone was able to send out letters under its name, so it accepted responsibility and tried to come up with an explanation, which as you may have noted didn't work out too well."

"Sounds brilliant. Anything else?"

"Well, our latest triumph has been to siphon off about five million dollars to the Youth Orchestra and the Hawthorne phys ed department to buy metronomes and frisbees. The school board had to cancel all repairs on buildings for the rest of the fiscal year in order to get the budget back in balance. And then, of course, there's the speech."

"You don't mean you wrote Ms. Sizemore's speech attacking racism?"

"I can't tell you how we did it but, frankly, we were getting worried. We were doing pretty well with transitory white racism but it wasn't becoming an institution. We thought if we created a little friction between Ms. Sizemore and all the local WASPS it would help our cause. Naturally, the business about her attacking Hawthorne and the youth orchestra wasn't our idea. She stuck that in. You know, I think she suspects what we're up to. She even attacked our string quartet the other day."

"I don't recall that."

"Well, it's hard to remember everybody she's mad at, but she did mention us. We've got this little quartet called the White Power Structure and we play lots of down-home tunes like "Good Nigh Irene," Mozart and Perry Como's arrangement of "Ava Maria." I mean you talk about your European music, we're it."

"What are you going to do next?"

"Some of the conspiracy want to keep on doing the same old thing, like putting rubber cement in the valves of trumpets at the Duke Ellington High School for the Arts, but I think we can't really compete with the job Ms. Sizemore is doing by herself. Who needs institutionalized white racists when you've got her? I'm ready to give the whole damn thing up and go back to housing, Metro or some other place a racist can make a real difference."

"You sound depressed."

"And it's getting worse. Except for Ms. Sizemore, who gives us credit for what we do? Not many. And we can't even count on her. Why the other day I saw a top secret report from the school administration explaining why certain monies weren't where they were supposed to be and you know who they blamed this time? Not us but the cookie monster. I mean if Barbara Sizemore won't stick by us then who will?"

I said I didn't know but would try to find out. In the meanwhile, if you see reports of Ms. Sizemore taking responsibility for anything that goes wrong in the school system, don't believe it. It's probably just another dirty trick.

*Josiah X. Swampoodle*  
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the police but to attempt to avoid that by diverting them into a community justice or arbitration program, or by helping to resolve disputes on the spot.

The community justice system could operate as a mixture of arbitration service, justice of the peace and small claims court. The arbiters should be selected by both the adults and the teenaged youth of the community, for if trouble-prone youths are to have any respect for the system they must be included from the start. There are numerous dangers to be avoided: the politicization and corruption of the system, the attraction of the role of judge to people who often are the ones you don't want as judges, etc. But before you come down too hard on these issues, remember that almost every danger in a community justice system already exists in our centralized justice programs.

Part of the emphasis would be upon resolving problems through arbitration rather than adversary proceedings. Lawyers and the law, as now constituted, have a vested interest in keeping us at each others throats. We, on the other hand, have a vested interest in avoiding this.

How this might work in a small claims situation is easy to see. But let's take a more difficult problem. Say a kid had stolen something from a store. The store guard stops the youth and instead of calling the police, calls the neighborhood constable. The constable basically offers the kid two choices: either you will be turned over to the police and the manager will press charges through the downtown court system or the manager will withhold the complaint pending a hearing on the matter before a neighborhood arbitration commission (or community justice committee — any name that doesn't include the word "court"). At the hearing the matter to be resolved would be responsibility, not guilt or innocence. For example, the youth (aided by another neighborhood citizen serving as an advisor) might be found responsible for the theft of goods. But testimony might also develop on other matters — that the store had a policy of harassing school age youths or that the youth had been recently expelled from school and was unemployed. None of this would be admissible in a normal court proceeding but in the context of community justice and arbitration it would all become important. If the committee found the youth responsible for the theft it would not punish the youth but present a plan for restitution for the damage done and resolution of the ancillary problems developed during the hearing. The restitution might be formalized in a three-way agreement between the youth, the store manager and the community's representatives. In it the youth might accept responsibility for the theft and make a commitment to provide restitution in the form of services or payments to the store and community. The manager would agree not to prosecute the case and to arbitrate the dispute over harassment. The community committee would assign a volunteer adult from the neighborhood to work with the youth and would attempt to deal with the school problem.

Notice how dramatically different such a course would be compared to the current practice. Instead of immediately putting the youth into the downtown system in which the offender is the pawn of judges, lawyers,

police and prison officials, none of whom have any vested interest in the community in which the offense took place, the matter is approached in a way that the individual's relationship to the community is emphasized, responsibility is made more important than guilt, restitution more important than punishment and related matters that help to create the environment in which the offense took place are considered. Most importantly, the community would not excommunicate an offender but act more in a fashion to both mitigate the chance of repetition of the offense and provide the offender with help. (In cases where the offender comes from a community other than the one in which the offense took place, a joint community committee could hear the case.)

Obviously, such a system would not work with rapists or major drug dealers. But with the minor crimes in which youth is so often involved, as well as in minor civil matters, there is a strong chance that the community could do a far better job than the downtown system. It is not an idealistic and romantic notion. In fact, the current practice is both idealistic and romantic; it presumes that an elaborate institution empowered to create law and justice can do so. It can't; transgression is just too individual a matter.

Besides, I see little hope of reforming the metropolitan police, the downtown judges, lawyers or the prisons. They will never do the job right because their basic concept is wrong. They believe that human relations are adversary ones; and with their help their belief becomes self-fulfilling. If we want to change the system of justice we must start right in our own neighborhoods. And neighborhood government gives us that chance.

The final pragmatic function that neighborhood government could perform is the reorganization of urban government. Many of those pressing for statehood here have realized from the start that neighborhood government is an essential part of the concept. As a Democratic political leader said to me the other day, "The neighborhood councils could provide the infrastructure for statehood." With the city broken down into semi-autonomous villages, the present city government would find itself evolving into the role of a state, providing services best handled at a citywide level, raising taxes, allocating funds fairly among the various neighborhoods and ensuring equity among the various competing neighborhood interests.

The central government would do those things we can not do for ourselves and would prevent us from doing those things that benefit ourselves but hurt others. It would be an arbitrator and judge of conflicting interests and a protection against the excesses of parochial claims. It would no longer, however, seek to run every facet of the city.

In 1785, George Washington wrote to Lafayette: "Democratic states must always feel before they can see. It is this that makes their governments slow. But the people will be right at last."

It is in our neighborhoods that we feel. And it is in our neighborhoods that we should be allowed to see and be right at last.

— SAM SMITH

ONE OF THE BIGGEST stories in the country is being blackballed from the major press like the Washington Post and the New York Times: the growing evidence that the assassinations of the 1960's involved considerably more than the government ever admitted. When ABC-TV's "Goodnight America" ran a show on the JFK killing, the response was so great that it scheduled a second program on the issue. The Post didn't even mention it in its pick for that night's best viewing. Here is a story far bigger than Watergate. Why is the Post ignoring it?

THE CIA, we now learn, has been having its agents arrested on false pretenses and then questioned by the DC police. According to the Star, the arrests were carried out "to test the agents' ability to withstand intensive interrogation by police" and "to simulate stress situations that might befall CIA agents abroad." Which, if you think about it, is a pretty frightening commentary on the DC police.

## DC EYE

ALTHOUGH PUBLIC NOTICE is required for many types of city action, such as proposed council legislation, that notice is often not properly made. For example, public notice matters are often published ex post facto in the DC Register. A case in point: the March 7 DC Register arrived in our office March 21.

LOS ANGELES MAYOR TOM BRADLEY must have been thinking of DC when he told the National League of Cities in a speech: "Along with our trend toward disposable lighters, disposable cans and bottles and even disposable clothes we developed the absurd concept and practice of throwaway cities."

ACCORDING TO SILVIA PORTER, a 1972 Federal Power Commission study shows that private power costs the average residential user 2.4¢ per kilowatt hour as compared with 1.63¢ for public power. . . . Incidentally, if you want to figure out how much better a deal big electricity users here are getting than you are, multiply the number of kilowatt hours you used last month (it's on your bill) by .68. That's approximately how much you would be paying for the same amount of electricity if you were a big user after you had paid for the first 1500 hours at a higher rate.

WE HOPE THAT the reports we hear that the school board is getting ready to get rid of Ms. Sizemore are true. We further hope that her replacement will be someone from DC who understands both education and local politics. The star system approach to superintendent selection has been a grim failure.

# KEY VOTES

COUNCIL MEMBER	VOTE 11	VOTE 12	VOTE 13	VOTE 14	VOTE 15	VOTE 16	VOTE 17	VOTE 18	CUMULATIVE				RATING %
Marion Barry	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	7	8	2	1	39%
David Clarke	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	8	9	1	0	44%
James Coates	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	6	11	1	0	33%
Arrington Dixon	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	7	11	0	0	39%
Willie Hardy	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	9	9	0	0	50%
Julius Hobson	-	+	+	+	-	A	A	A	9	6	3	0	50%
Douglas Moore	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	8	10	0	0	44%
Jerry Moore	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	7	7	4	0	39%
Polly Shackleton	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	8	10	0	0	44%
William Spaulding	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	5	11	0	2	28%
Sterling Tucker	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	5	13	0	0	28%
John Wilson	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	7	10	1	0	39%
Nadine Winter	NV	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	8	9	0	1	44%
Pros	10	13		13	13	11	12	12					
Cons	1	0		0	0	1	0	0					
Walter Washington	NA	*	*	*	-	*	*	*	0	6			0%

\*Awaiting mayor's action at presstime

SHOWN ABOVE are recent votes of the City Council. + = vote that agrees with our position. - = vote that doesn't agree with our position. If you do not agree with our position, simply switch the signs. A = absent. NV = present but not voting. The percentage shown at right is the cumulative percent of + votes this year. To help give an idea of where Walter Washington stands in all of this, we score him on those issues where he has taken a clear stand or has signed or vetoed a particular bill.

VOTE #11: Nomination of John Hechinger to the DC Judicial Nomination Commission. There were three issues raised here. First is that of all the nominations made by others with the power to name people to this important body (the mayor, the bar etc.) none are women. This was strongly criticized by Douglas Moore, who thought the council should have named a woman to the post. Secondly, the nominations are heavily weighted towards the city establishment and lacks representation of those groups most affected by the court system. Thirdly, the council's nomination was made not only without public notice but without consultation with a number of members of the council. The council appears to have given Sterling Tucker carte blanche in these matters which is a poor idea. Although Hechinger's appointment is better than some of those made by the other agencies involved, the council's action smacks of patronage rising above concern for the public interest. (+ = opposition).

VOTE #12: Bill to exempt ice cream vendors from having to install mechanical refrigeration units. The requirement would have favored large firms and driven many small vendors out of business (+ = support)

VOTE #13: Approval of the Community Assistance Block Grant proposal to the federal government for housing. The council changed the proposal to bring it more in line with the recommendations of the Citywide Housing Coalition. While not perfect, it was an improvement over the mayor's plan. (+ = support.)

VOTE #14: Bill to require improved handling of tenant security deposits. (+ = support).

VOTE #15: Bill to permit mayor to lease or grant permit for use of space under Dupont Circle. While this is a good idea, the council should not have given the mayor a blank check. Too little is known as to who will use the space for what and the council should have been more interested than it was. (+ = opposition).

VOTE #16: Gross receipts tax. Although the council cut \$19 million from the mayor's proposal of a \$61 million gross receipts tax (by substantially increasing the exemption for small businesses), the council ignored its own expressed doubts about the wisdom of such a tax. In fact, 7 out of the 66 pages of the revenue committee's report on new taxes are devoted to the problems with this tax. These problems include the fact that it really is a sales tax in disguise that will be passed on to consumers (although the council did wisely exempt small businesses and food stores from the tax); the tax discriminates against high volume, low profit margin

firms; the tax would be applied to money-losing as well as profit-making firms; some firms might be driven out of business as a result; by taxing both manufacturing and wholesalers the tax would be compounded in the case of a local retailer buying from a local wholesaler; some wholesalers might move out of the city (a representative of Standard Cigar told the council that his firm, which is the largest tobacco and candy wholesaler here, would cease doing business in DC); New York City tried such a tax and found it didn't work. But perhaps most significant is that neither the council nor the executive seems to know how much of the tax will actually be a sales tax increase. Fourteen million dollars of the \$42 million to be raised would be compensated for by a one percent decline in the general sales tax. Another \$7 million would come out of the new tax on professional firms like doctors and lawyers. But where would the other \$21 million come from? How much from wholesalers? How much from presently tax-exempt purchases by the government and non-profit organizations? We don't know, but it is quite possible that hidden in this tax is a 1/2 to one percent increase in the sales tax. (+ = opposition).

VOTE #17: The rest of the revenue package. The council really only deserves half a plus for this one. Although the work done on the mayor's package was the most detailed and competent yet by a D.C. city council, the council failed to consider all the alternative sources of income that have been suggested within and without the council. If the council can pass a gross receipts tax so glibly why could it not, for example, have voted on a speculation tax? How does it decide which new taxes get steamrolled through and which await the lobbying efforts by special interests against them? On the other hand, the council did eliminate the notorious food tax and the laundry tax, upped the parking tax from the mayor's proposed 6% to 8%, and reduced the sales tax from 5 to 4%. It was a flawed but still respectable effort by a new council and it was backed up by an unusually conscientious amount of study. (+ = support).

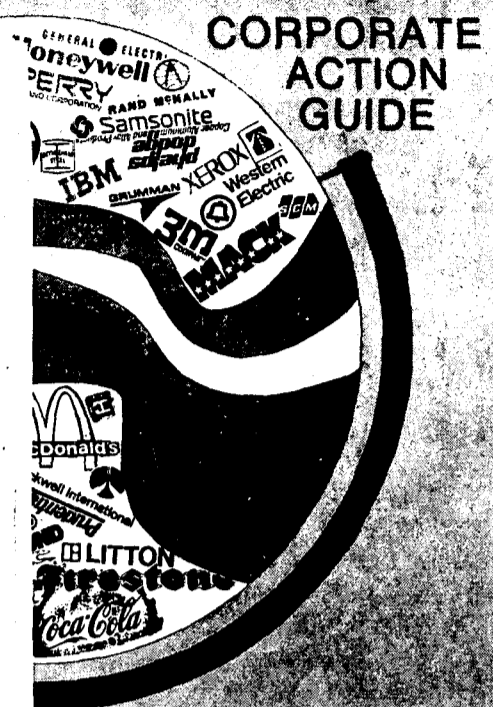
VOTE #18: The budget. Again the results were not as good as one might have hoped but better than we've been used to. The council made some substantial cuts in the mayor's budget. Hopefully the council will realize that if, in the future, it is not to be limited to making across-the-board cuts it will have to spend the time between now and the next budget submission finding where specific economies can be made in the city's overblown budget. (+ = support).



# THE GAZETTE BOOKSHELF

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SEE NEXT PAGE

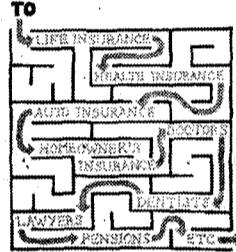
## THROUGH DC BY BUS



**Help!**  
**My Child Won't Eat Right**  
A GUIDE TO BETTER NUTRITION

\$2

### THE SHOPPER'S GUIDEBOOK TO



### Tightening the Circle over eel country



elisavietta ritchie

### TIGHTENING THE CIRCLE OVER EEL COUNTRY by Elisavietta Ritchie

Collection of contemporary verse. "Elisavietta Ritchie's poetry has vitality, wit, sadness and enormous gusto," wrote Josephine Jacobsen, Consultant-in-Poetry to Library of Congress, 1971-73. "(Her) work combines byzantine elegance with straight forward plain style honesty," writes William Packard, (editor, *New York Quarterly*). "The extraordinary range of her interests—work, love, sensuality, and man's plight in a forlorn civilization—is reinforced by her exquisite regard for language and a lively fascination with the possibilities of form." \$3.75

HELP! MY CHILD WON'T EAT RIGHT. Over 200 meals and recipes to help wean your child away from junk food. \$4.50.

STRATEGY FOR GETTING A GOVERNMENT JOB. \$2.75

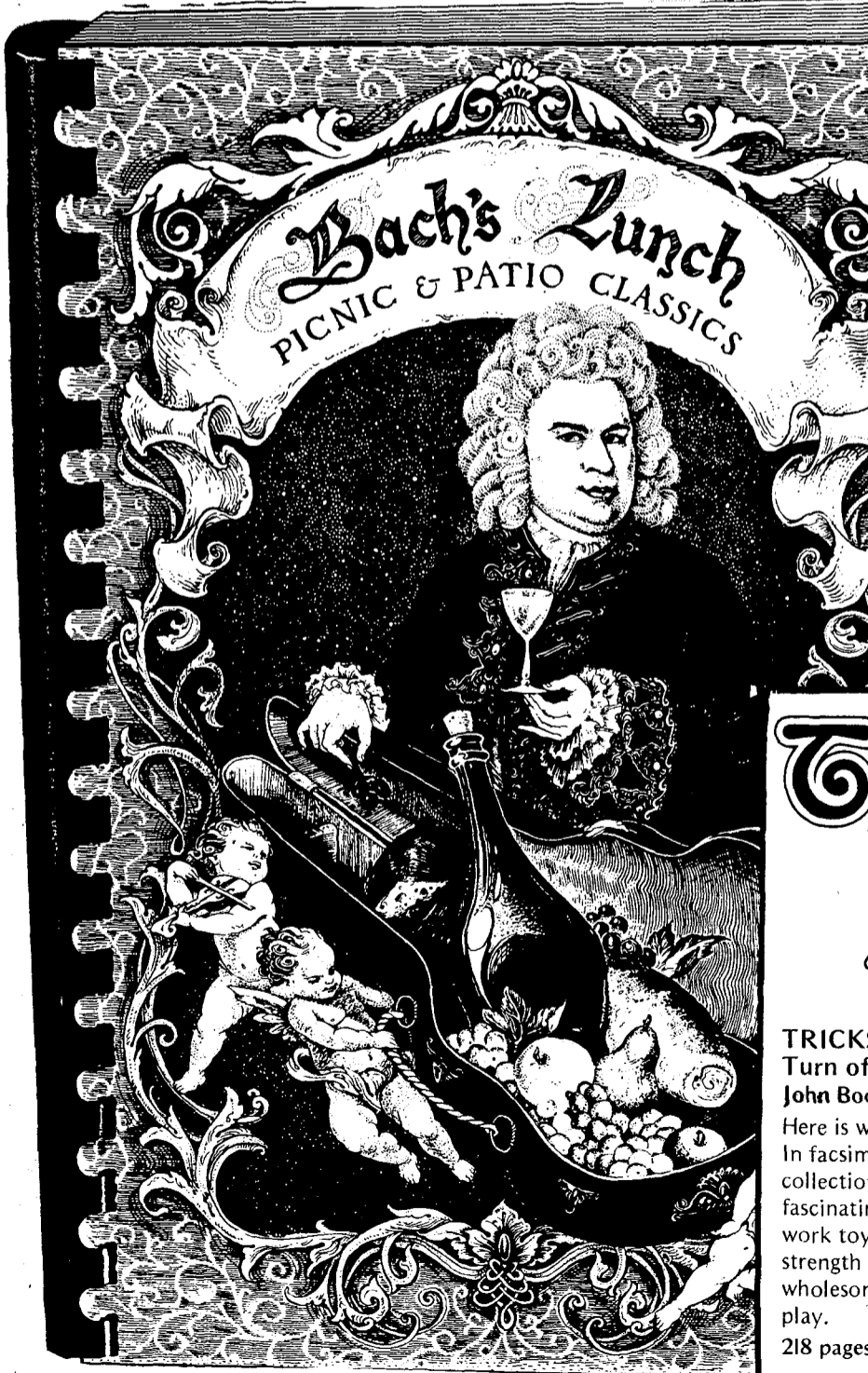
CALL ME WHEN YOU FIND AMERICA. Some of G.B. Trudeau's funniest Doonesbury strips. \$1.95.

BETWEEN PARENT AND CHILD. Dr. Haim Ginott's rightfully popular guide for parents. \$1.50.

NUTRITION SCOREBOARD. Your guide to better eating by Michael Jacobson. Information on what foods give you what you need and which don't. \$2.50

CORPORATE ACTION GUIDE. Detailed but easy to understand information on corporate America. How to take action against corporations. Resource and action groups. \$2.50.

NEWS NOTES: A monthly newsletter for activists with national news notes your media probably didn't pass on to you, what groups are up to, information available. Year's trial subscription: \$3.



## Tricks & Puzzles



TRICKS AND PUZZLES: Facsimiles from the Turn of the Century  
John Bookout, Donald P. DeNevi, Helen M. Friend  
Here is what to do when television palls—or appalls you. In facsimile from turn of the century magazines is a collection of after-dinner sports, parlor tricks and fascinating puzzles. You'll learn how to build clock-work toys, blow bubbles around flowers, test your strength in ingenious ways...and much more. Really wholesome entertainment, and any number, any age can play.  
218 pages, \$3.95 perfectbound



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

**CHILD DAY CARE WEEK:** May 16-23. Starts with a "Fun Festival" in Lincoln Park on May 17 from 10 to 6, sponsored by the National Child Day Care Assn. During the week there will be tours of local day care centers and on May 23, Del. Fauntroy will sponsor a wine and cheese reception from 7 to 9 pm. The public is invited and there will be a nominal admission fee. Info: Fran Swift, 638-1585.

**BIKE RALLY:** The Montgomery County Recreation Department has scheduled its second annual bike rally in Rock Creek Park for Sunday, May 18th. Info: Washington Area Bicyclist Assn, 223-0003.

**CREATIVE LIVING FAIR:** Designed to permit non-profit and alternative organizations a chance to get together and present what they are doing in workshops, demonstrations etc. On the Mall, May 3 and 4. Sponsored by Resources for Creative Living, (723-8273 or 966-6826).

**NOMINEES TO ELECTION BOARD:** If you have nominees for the Board of Election, now's the time to suggest them to the Board of Elections Nominating Committee, c/o the chairman, John Risher Jr., 1815 H NW. The big question is whether the board will contain representation from the city's second party, the Statehood Party, or whether the District Building will continue to pretend that the DCSP doesn't exist.

**ADAMS-MORGAN RED CROSS CENTER:** The Red Cross has opened a center at 2433 16th NW. This is the second neighborhood center the Red Cross has opened here. It is looking for volunteers to help in its program.

**MATERIALS ON NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS:** Five locations have been established by the Citizens Neighborhood Council Coordinating Committee as repositories for the information it has gathered on neighborhood councils. Locations are:

- Anacostia Library, 18th & Good Hope SE.
- Institute for Policy Studies, 1901 Que NW (234-9382, Milton Kotler).
- Metropolitan Citizens Advisory Council, 1st Floor Annex, 1021 14th NW (638-7300, John Wagner, ext. 350)
- Metropolitan Washington Planning & Housing Assn., 1225 K NW (737-3700)
- Woodridge Library, 18th & RI NE (727-1401).

## LOW INCOME RATES

If you earn less than \$7500 a year you may subscribe or renew to the Gazette for only \$2.50 a year. Use the form below:

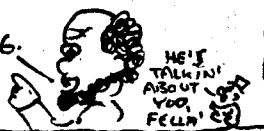
DC GAZETTE  
109 8th St. NE  
DC 20002

Please [ ] start [ ] renew my subscription to the DC Gazette for one year. I enclose \$2.50. I earn less than \$7500 a year.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

LET US KNOW  
WHAT'S HAPPENING.  
MAY 20TH IS  
OUR NEXT DEADLINE



### JEWISH TRIBUTE TO THE FARMWORKERS.

Cesar Chavez speaks Sunday, May 11 at Montgomery Blair High (Wayne Ave. and Dale Drive) in Silver Spring at 8 pm. The event is cosponsored by a broad coalition of area Jewish organizations. Admission is \$5 (\$2.50 for students and senior citizens). You can get tickets from Tzedek Tzedek, 234-2856.

**WARD THREE COUNCIL OFFICE:** Polly Shackleton has opened a ward office at the Chevy Chase Community Center, 2nd floor, 5601 Conn. Ave. NW. Call 686-5227.

### CLASSES OF INTEREST

**FEDERAL AFTER HOURS EDUCATION:** More than 60 courses at college level will be offered this fall after working hours in 31 downtown federal office buildings. Info: Robert Stewart, GWU, 676-7018.

**GEORGE WASHINGTON SUMMER SCHOOL:** More than 500 courses. Two sessions. Summer Session office, GWU, 676-6360.

**INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT:** Starts this fall at American University. Specialized programs for public service, not-for-profit operations and business organizations. Info: Center for Financial Management, 101 Hamilton Building, AU, DC 20016.

**CAREER TRANSITION COURSE:** Designed to help those embarking on a new career or looking toward a promotion. Course begins June 23 at CU. \$240 for course. Call Center for Continuing Education, CU, 635-5626.

## Classifieds

Classified ads are 10¢ a word payable in advance. Deadline is the third Tuesday of the month. Send ad with check to DC Gazette, 109 8th St. NE, DC 20002

**PRINCETON** government summer interns need reasonably inexpensive accommodations mid June to end August. Send listings — location, price, space available, whom to contact, etc., to Newell Brown, Director Career Services, Clio Hall, Princeton NJ 08540.

**ORIENTAL LADIES** want to write to you. Names, ages, photos, \$1.00. Info on how to contact them. Rainbow Ridge, Stehekin, WA 98852

### STOP RAYBURN II

WE ran out of space to rant about plans for a new House office building that would destroy a Capitol Hill neighborhood — but then we figure our readers don't need much convincing on that score. The folks fighting Rayburn II need all the help they can get. Call Adam Clymer at 544-4305 for information.

**CHICKEN COOKING CONTEST:** There will be a chicken cooking contest at Woodie's downtown store on May 10, sponsored by the National Broiler Council. Info: 296-2622.

THE Statehood Party will hold its annual convention on Sunday, May 11th from one to five at the Morgan School, 1773 California St. NW. For more information contact Jo Butler at 785-2444 or 383-3566.

### SEPARATE FACT FROM OPINION

Cut out the page to the right and fold and you'll have another four pages of our new ABDC Book, a compendium of useful facts about the city that you'll want to save. We suggest you file it in a loose-leaf notebook for future reference. If you didn't get the first issue of the ABDC Book, send 35¢ to the DC Gazette, 109 8th St. NE, DC 20002 and we'll send you it.

## AD RATES

\$2 per column inch  
\$22.50 per quarter page  
\$45.00 per half page  
\$90.00 per page

Half-tones & line art requiring reduction or enlargement: \$4 each. Make-up charges: \$15 per hour for ads not camera-ready. Commercial classifieds: 10¢ a word.

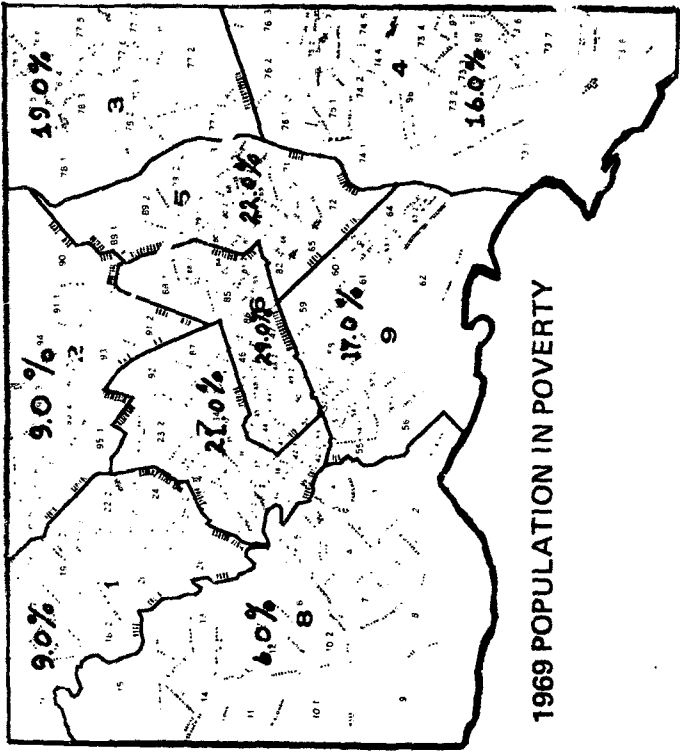
### LOW ANNUAL RATES

Advertising in the Gazette is an inexpensive way of reaching 3000 active consumers. Check out the low annual rates for commercial notices:

One column by 1" = \$18.50  
One column by 2" = \$37.00  
One column by 3" = \$56.00

That's for a whole year. The only condition is that ads must be camera-ready and the entire amount must be paid with the ad.

DC GAZETTE  
109 8th St. NE 543-5850



1969 POPULATION IN POVERTY

LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH IN D.C.

	1974
All Causes .....	7,957
1. Diseases of heart .....	2,405
2. Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and hematopoietic tissues ..	1,538
3. Cerebrovascular disease .....	636
4. Cirrhosis of liver .....	412
5. Influenza and pneumonia .....	308
6. Accidents .....	299
7. Homicide .....	260
8. Arteriosclerosis .....	237
9. Diabetes mellitus .....	181
10. Certain causes of mortality in early infancy .....	174
11. Other diseases of arteries, arterioles, and capillaries .....	98
12. Bronchitis, emphysema and asthma .....	81
All others .....	1,328

MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME BY COLOR

C I T Y	M E D I A N F A M I L Y I N C O M E (dollars)			
	1 9 5 9		1 9 6 9	
	ALL	NONWHITE	ALL	NEGRO
Washington, D.C.	5,993	4,800	9,583	8,488
Atlanta, Ga.	5,029	3,108	8,399	6,451
Baltimore	5,659	4,123	8,815	7,289
Boston	5,747	4,235	9,133	6,346
Cleveland	5,935	4,750	9,107	7,617
Milwaukee	6,664	4,842	10,262	7,491
San Francisco	6,717	5,305	10,503	7,676
St. Louis	5,355	3,718	8,192	6,534

SOURCE: 1960 & 1970 Census Reports.

COMPARISON OF AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARIES FOR TEACHERS

14 Large Cities	1968-69		1973-74	
	Average Salaries	Rank	Average Salaries	Rank
Baltimore	\$8,936	7	\$10,857	11
Boston	8,498	10	12,000	8
Chicago	9,966	3	13,943	4
Cleveland	8,169	11	11,700	9
Dallas	7,284	13	9,650	13
Houston	7,200	14	9,837	12
Los Angeles	10,000	2	13,405	6
Milwaukee	8,700	9	14,007	3
New Orleans	7,775	12	9,500	14
New York	9,100	5	14,200	2
Philadelphia	8,948	6	13,551	5
St. Louis	8,833	8	11,360	10
San Francisco	11,300	1	14,322	1
Washington, D. C.	9,400	4	12,766	7
Surrounding Areas:				
Alexandria	8,692	5	12,861	3
Arlington County	9,964	1	12,918	2
Fairfax County	7,619	6	12,936	1
Montgomery County	9,389	3	12,143	5
Prince George's County	9,232	4	11,979	6

Source: USOE-NCES Statistics of Public Elementary and Secondary Day Schools

D.C. POPULATION BY AGE & COLOR - 1960 & 1970-73

	TOTAL			WHITE			NONWHITE		
	1960*	1970*	1973** (est)	1960*	1970*	1973** (est)	1960*	1970*	1973** (est)
All Ages	763,956	756,510	739,600	345,263	210,878	179,000	418,693	545,632	560,600
0-4	78,095	59,723	59,200	21,388	7,229	5,500	56,707	52,494	53,700
5-9	63,350	64,611	58,900	16,042	6,577	4,400	47,308	58,034	54,500
10-14	52,227	64,404	63,000	16,033	7,094	5,400	36,194	57,310	57,600
15-19	49,382	66,728	61,700	23,016	14,410	6,800	26,366	52,318	54,900
20-24	59,769	77,993	75,400	30,242	26,222	23,200	29,527	51,771	52,200
25-29	55,198	64,590	69,200	23,303	19,745	19,400	31,895	44,845	49,800
30-34	54,253	47,665	53,600	20,998	12,649	13,100	33,255	35,016	40,500
35-39	55,359	42,775	41,000	21,676	9,942	8,800	33,683	32,833	32,200
40-44	51,224	42,442	40,300	22,244	10,538	8,900	28,980	31,904	31,400
45-49	51,512	43,491	40,200	25,391	12,062	9,900	26,121	31,429	30,300
50-54	48,440	40,599	39,300	27,469	13,795	10,600	20,971	26,804	28,700
55-59	41,558	37,540	34,700	25,365	14,785	12,000	16,193	22,755	22,700
60-64	34,446	32,987	31,800	23,360	15,415	13,100	11,086	17,572	18,700
65+	69,143	70,962	71,300	48,736	40,415	37,900	20,407	30,547	33,400
5-14	115,577	129,015	121,900	32,075	13,671	9,800	83,502	115,344	112,100
15-44	325,185	342,193	341,200	141,479	93,506	80,200	183,706	248,687	261,000
45-64	175,956	154,617	146,000	101,585	56,057	45,600	74,371	98,560	100,400

SOURCE: \* 1960, 1970 CENSUSES  
\*\* 1973 population estimates:  
Demographic Unit, Statistical System  
Group, OPM

POLICE PERSONNEL & CRIMINAL OFFENSE DATA FOR D.C. & OTHER MAJOR CITIES

RANKED BY 1970 GENUS POPULATION	1970 POPULATION	CRIME INDEX		PER 1,000 POPULATION	NO. POLICE OFFICERS	PER 1,000 POPULATION
		OFFENSES	POPULATION			
NEW YORK.....	7,894,862	475,855	60.28	29,861	3.90	
CHICAGO.....	3,366,957	214,515	63.71	13,415	3.90	
LOS ANGELES.....	2,816,061	211,677	75.17	7,134	2.53	
PHILADELPHIA.....	1,948,609	72,263	37.08	8,026	4.12	
DETROIT.....	1,511,482	118,151	78.17	5,575	3.69	
HOUSTON.....	1,232,802	82,426	66.86	2,184	1.77	
BALTIMORE.....	905,759	65,449	72.26	3,571	3.94	
DALLAS.....	844,401	69,850	82.72	1,929	2.28	
WASHINGTON, D.C.....	756,510	51,061	67.46	4,937	6.53	
CLEVELAND.....	750,903	42,140	56.12	2,437	3.25	
INDIANAPOLIS.....	744,624	29,615	39.77	1,110	1.49	
MILWAUKEE.....	717,099	30,253	42.19	2,128	2.97	
SAN FRANCISCO.....	715,674	57,509	80.35	1,958	2.74	
SAN DIEGO.....	696,769	45,556	65.38	1,014	1.46	
SAN ANTONIO.....	654,153	43,261	66.10	1,040	1.59	
BOSTON.....	641,071	52,482	81.88	2,565	4.00	
MEMPHIS.....	623,530	42,907	68.82	1,170	1.88	
ST. LOUIS.....	622,236	63,852	102.62	2,218	3.56	
NEW ORLEANS.....	593,471	35,199	59.31	1,343	2.26	
PHOENIX.....	581,562	61,646	105.99	1,307	2.25	
COLUMBUS.....	539,677	31,327	58.05	1,106	2.05	
SEATTLE.....	530,831	40,274	75.87	1,138	1.47	
JACKSONVILLE.....	528,865	34,641	65.50	780	1.47	
PITTSBURGH.....	520,117	26,224	50.42	1,551	2.98	
DENVER.....	514,678	44,049	85.57	1,297	2.52	
KANSAS CITY.....	507,087	32,346	63.79	1,310	2.58	

TABLE NO. 70 AND TABLE 75 OF  
UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS - - - 1973

REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENTS

TOTAL AREA	LAND	IMPROVEMENTS	TOTAL VALUE	TAX	% OF LAND AREA
Taxable.....	13,644,5779	1,730,572,804	2,437,809,379	4,168,382,183	44.7
U.S.....	13,270,5606	2,210,364,990	1,257,596,118	115,124,191	43.3
D.C.....	1,353,7262	109,146,938	248,862,120	358,009,058	4.4
Exempt.....	2,313,1413	267,173,327	439,197,340	706,370,667	7.6
Totals.....	30,632,0060	4,317,258,059	4,383,099,967	8,700,358,026	

Prepared by: Fiscal Planning and Research,  
Department of Finance and Revenue

THE ABC BOOK

GROUPS & SERVICES - NEW PUBLICATIONS - GOOD THINGS - CITIFAX

PUBLICATIONS

GOOD THINGS

20. GARDENING WITHOUT ALL THAT  
DIRT. An article on hydroponic gar-  
dening and its implications for ur-  
ban agriculture. (Post, March 20,  
1975). For more information on the  
work being done locally on hydro-  
ponics contact the Institute for  
Self-Reliance, 1717 18th NW, Adams-  
Morgan DC 20009 (232-4108)

21. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN FOR  
THE SELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE  
1976 CONVENTION FROM THE DISTRICT OF  
COLUMBIA. (DC Democratic Central  
Committee, 1010 Vermont Ave. NW  
#516), DC 20005.

22. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT  
DC CITY COUNCIL BILL #144: A PRO-  
POSAL TO ADOPT A CIVIL FINE MAR-  
JUNA DECRIMINALIZATION PLAN. Answers  
some of the most frequently asked  
questions about this type of leg-  
islation. (NORML, 2317 M NW, DC  
20037)

CITIFAX

BOARD OF TRADE PUBLICATIONS

The following publications are  
available from the Board of  
Trade, 1129 20th NW, DC 20036.  
The Gazette does not have cop-  
ies.

23. MANUFACTURERS DIRECTORY,  
METROPOLITAN DC. 1972. \$10.  
24. HEADQUARTERS USA: A DI-  
RECTORY OF NATIONAL NON-PROFIT  
ASSOCIATIONS HEADQUARTERED IN  
DC. 1972. \$5.

25. PRINCIPAL EMPLOYERS,  
METRO WASHINGTON. 1974. \$2.50.  
26. SCIENTIFIC RESOURCES IN  
THE WASHINGTON DC AREA. 1972.  
\$10.

27. DC FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL  
REPORT 1974. A wealth of statistical  
data on the city (DC Budget Office)

28. WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA  
TRANSIT AUTHORITY. COMMITTEE STAFF  
REPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE ON THE DIS-  
TRICT OF COLUMBIA, HOUSE OF REPRE-  
SENTATIVES. A staff report highly  
critical of Metro's bus service, mi-  
nority hiring and contracting and  
construction safety. (House DC Com-  
mittee).

DC'S UNEMPLOYED

The DC Manpower Advisory Commit-  
tee reported in March 1975 that  
207,000 city residents are ei-  
ther unemployed or underemploy-  
ed.

DC MEN AND CANCER

Here are the comparative figures  
for death from cancer among men  
in DC and nationally between  
1950 and 1969. Rates are per  
100,000 persons. (Jack E. White,  
director of Howard University's  
cancer research center):  
•Black DC men: 264.5  
•White DC men: 203.7  
•Black men nationally: 184.2  
•White men nationally: 174

FISCAL YEAR  
72 73 74 75  
(est)

50,000

40,000

DC CRIME

30,000

20,000

10,000

0

CRIMES  
AGAINST  
PERSONS

10,000

0

BLACK FIRMS AND THE DC GOVERNMENT

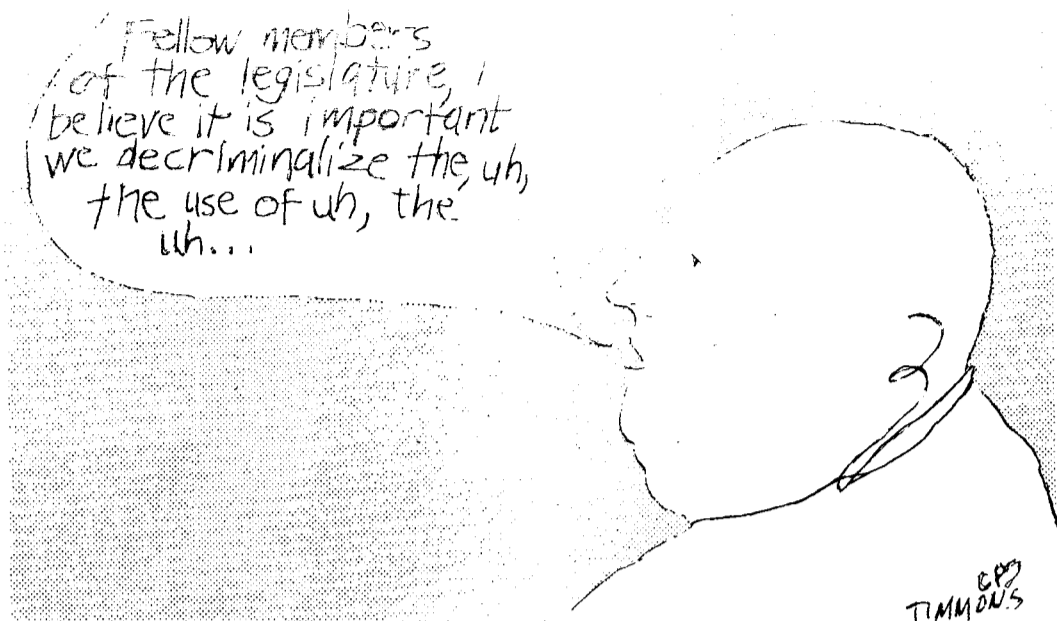
Black-owned firms receive only  
about 3.5% of the \$43 million  
the city spends annually on equip-  
ment and supplies.

TRAFFIC IN 1974

Traffic volume declined 2.8% in the  
city in 1974 compared with 1973.  
The decline in traffic over the  
Potomac River bridges decreased 4.3  
percent. Citywide traffic volume  
has increased 28.7% over the past  
ten years.

HOMICIDE 1974

186 of the 299 in DC in 1974 were  
caused by firearms. 59 involved  
cutting or stabbing; 35 blunt force  
injury and 10 strangulation or  
smothering.



## Good Bills

A BILL TO establish a speculation profits tax on real estate. Under this bill any person who sold more than one piece of property in the city during a year would be subject to a graduated excise tax ranging from 10 to 70 percent of the profits, depending on the length of time the property had been owned. This is similar to the proposals that have been discussed in the Gazette over the past few months. Curiously, the council did not give this proposal serious consideration when it developed its alternative revenue package this year. Sponsored by David Clarke and Nadine Winter.

A BILL TO PROVIDE protection for consumers purchasing memberships in health clubs. The intent of this bill is to permit health club subscribers to cancel contracts and to receive a refund for the unused balance of their contract. Sponsored by John Wilson.

A BILL TO REQUIRE ADEQUATE SECURITY DEVICES on rental units in the city. Sponsored by Arrington Dixon.

A BILL TO ESTABLISH NO-FAULT AUTO INSURANCE in the city. Although the details of this 68-page bill need to be studied, the principle is sound. According to the bill's sponsor, Nadine Winter, the Department of Transportation has found that there is no recovery from insurance in 49% of all auto-related deaths and 43% of those injured receive nothing. Out over every dollar paid for auto insurance, 56 cents goes for overhead, lawyers fees, etc., and only 14¢ for compensation.

A RESOLUTION to establish a special committee to conduct a study of racial and sexual discrimination in employment by banks and lending institutions in the city. Introduced by Douglas Moore.

A BILL to prohibit public utilities from engaging in political, promotional, institutional, goodwill and rate justification advertising. Introduced by Douglas Moore.

A BILL to create a system of postcard registration for voting and to permit eligible voters to register on election day. Introduced by Arrington Dixon.

A BILL to provide protection to car owners against the abuses in the auto repossession business. Introduced by John Wilson.

## Bills to Study

THE PROPOSED reorganization of the city's housing and community development agencies into a single department.

## Bad Bills

A BILL TO AUTHORIZE the repair and maintenance of water service pipes and sewers by the DC Government. Introduced by Sterling Tucker on behalf of the mayor. This is a much weaker bill than that introduced by Arrington Dixon. The mayor's bill would only cover repairs up to the building line, would not be retroactive and gives the mayor discretionary power to charge the owner in cases where he believes owner negligence or action has caused the damage. Dixon's bill would provide reimbursement to citizens who have been billed for water main repairs in the past seven years up to \$5000. It would cover repairs up to the house itself rather than just to the building line. And it would require a report on the lead pipe hazard in the DC water system. Dixon's bill is much preferable and should be supported. It could mean several thousand dollars difference to any homeowner who has had, or who has in the future, a water main break.



**BLACK JOBS THREATENED** Julius W. Hobson is to be commended for bringing to the city council the issues involved in the construction of two new US Postal Service facilities, one at Wisconsin Avenue and Upton NW, the other near Gaithersburg, Md. on Route 70S.

Hobson on February 28 sent a three

page memorandum to all city council members which alerted them to what was proposed by the postal service. In an accompanying press statement Hobson cited reports that postal service employees at the "Old Car Barn" vehicle maintenance shop located in Shaw fear that the Montgomery County replacement of their building will cost them their jobs.

Hobson stated that "it appears to me that the US Postal Service is planning the Cleveland Park station contingent upon construction of the Montgomery County garage. It is clear that DC cannot afford to lose the 80 blue collar master mechanic jobs provided by the Shaw Car Barn which is the largest facility for Postal Service maintenance in the Washington metropolitan area." He reported that the minority hiring record at the other two DC area postal maintenance stations is very poor with a 5-1 white to black employ-

ment ratio according to one postal employee.

Hobson contends that it is clearly the council's responsibility to protect the workers and residents affected by the contemplated postal service actions by asserting its views to the US Postal Service and by insuring the agency's compliance with applicable environmental, occupational, health and civil rights laws.

The NCPC has taken a public-b damned attitude on these proposed postal facilities and has not required the postal service to file an environmental impact statement as it should.

It is to be hoped that the DC Gazette and its readers will rise up and demand action by lackadaisical and dilatory officials to protect these 80 black master mechanic jobs and the public.

GEORGE FRAIN

# Flotsam & Jetsam



I HAVE RECENTLY finished reading Catherine Drinker Bowen's love letter to Benjamin Franklin, "The Most Dangerous Man in America." Uncompleted when she died, the book's last chapter consists of notes she had tape recorded but not transcribed. The book is not a biography but, in Ms. Bowen's words, "glimpses of Franklin as he streaks, streams, boils by, borne along by a smoking cataract, yet himself cool as an apple in storage."

It was a good time to read the book, here in the midst of national discontent and my own late winter blues. I have always liked Franklin; his autobiography is one of the few books I have read twice (and intend to read again). But I had forgotten why I felt not only admiration but fondness towards him and Ms. Bowen's wonderful sketch not only reminded me but gave new reasons as well.

I was reading the book one morning during a city council meeting as the political heirs of Franklin and friends explained in tedious detail why they favored some resolution every one of their colleagues also approved; and a great hole seems to open between the words on the page and those filling my ears. It occurred to me that what we need next year is not a bicentennial celebration but a search party to retrieve the valuable from the two century gorge between then and now.

I imagined Franklin walking into the council chamber (or into Congress, the White House or some state legislature) and how strange it might appear to him. Part would be the language. Were a group of contemporary public officials to find themselves back at the Albany Congress of 1754 some would no doubt propose a "prioritization of the various thrusts and how they will impact on the affected colonies." Franklin, engaged in the preliminaries to one of the significant political unions in history, described his proposal simply as "Short Hints towards a Scheme for Uniting the Northern Colonies." But then Franklin lived in a period when plain speech even had favor among scientists. He and a scientific colleague, Isaac Newton, were among the contributors to *Transactions*, the journal of the Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge. *Transactions'* rules of style included the recommendation that writers use "the language of Artizans, Countrymen and Merchants" which was preferable to that of "Wits and Scholars." Also suggested were a "close, naked natural way of speaking" and "positive expressions; clear senses; a native easiness: bringing all things as near the Mathematical plainness as they can."

Plain speech has not completely lost its appeal in American politics (witness the Harry Truman revival and George Wallace, a portion of whose progress, I suspect, is due to

his unfortunately rare willingness to speak simply) but the dominant style has become one of ambiguity, obfuscation, evasiveness and pretentiousness. Even the left, as it calls the masses to revolt, frequently buries its meaning and argument behind amorphous and jargon-ridden phrases.

But more than the language, it would be the purposes to which politics is put that would no doubt disturb a reincarnated Franklin. Franklin understood politics and was as comfortable in the midst of a heated dispute as he was in front of a font of type. He could count votes and compromise with the best of today's lot. But to him there was more to it all than that. As one reads of his political activities, their purposeful nature stands sharply in contrast with the goalless machinations that we have come to accept as politics. Today the most proper question to ask of politicians is not whether they feel the ends justify the means but whether they have any ends at all. Or are there only means?

It is no longer necessary, or even desirable, to have any purpose for seeking public office other than the desire for power and prestige (and even this latter goal is largely illusory since the public has nowhere the esteem for public officials that public officials think they have). Further, the desire for power is often another expression of the desire for prestige, for once achieved it frequently becomes clear the power has no other goal.

The art of contemporary politics is to gain the greatest amount of credit with the least amount of effort and the greatest amount of power with the least amount of purpose. Effort, unless directed towards achieving power and prestige, is either ignored or considered naive and purpose is considered downright dangerous, the thieves' den of demagogues and radicals. Franklin's attitude towards politics was different: he said he would never seek public office nor refuse it. And when he accepted it, he did so in order to accomplish something other than the greater glory of himself.

He was also prepared to lose. Ms. Bowen writes of one defeat:

"To the overwhelming defeat of his plan, Franklin showed a characteristic reaction. Although confessing personal mortification, he at once commenced to develop the scheme further on a broader basis. In this man's nature as he progressed through life, surely a most noticeable trait is his response to personal failure. Again and again we see Franklin project some public plan. . . Again and again the plan is defeated and the news of it is noised abroad. Franklin does not wilt, nor does he snarl and strike back. He simply waits, writes out his ideas in letters to friends — invariably made public — and begins the charge from another position. . . Franklin's *Autobiography* is famous the world over for its candor. Yet in it he never agonizes. Following some tight situation, Franklin sets down a feasible, daily plan for recovery. Or he says something ironical and funny, then proceeds to the next matter at hand."

Another contrast to today's political style is Franklin's public brevity. Ms. Bowen could only find one occasion on which Franklin made what amounted to a speech. And Thomas Jefferson said he had served with Washington in the Virginia legislature and with Franklin in Congress, and that he "never heard either of them speak ten minutes at a time, nor to any but the main point that was to decide the question. They laid their shoulders to the great points, knowing that the little ones would follow of themselves."

It is not just the political character of Franklin that is appealing, nor the long list of his accomplishments from the work that led one critic to call him "the Electrician" to his stove. The list is impressive and long.

But even more, it is the extraordinary nature of Franklin himself that draws one. Even his flaws bring you towards him.

More than most American heroes, we know a considerable amount about Franklin's failings, largely thanks (once again) to Franklin. Though he set about to rectify these failings with Frankinesque diligence he was aware of the constant nature of the struggle, writing in his autobiography, for example, that there was no human passion so hard to subdue as pride for even if one thought that it had been accomplished you would probably be proud of your humility.

In two hundred years of American history it is hard to find many public figures who have made such a notable contribution to the criticism of themselves. When he knocked himself senseless playing with electricity he said he was ashamed, "a match for the Irishman, whom my sister told me of, who, being about to steal powder, made a hole in the cask."

Perhaps Franklin's most dubious contribution to American culture was his collection of utilitarian Readers Digest-style aphorisms packaged in *Poor Richard's Almanak*. Ms. Bowen writes:

"A penny saved is a penny earned. . . If a man keep his store his store will keep him." *Poor Richard's Almanak* is

rife with such mottoes; Father Abraham's adages went round the world and back for a century and a half. According to Mark Twin, the lives of a million schoolboys were made miserable by such precepts as 'Early to bed and early to rise.' D.H. Lawrence called the author of Poor Richard 'stuffy, a sheep in a pen.' Carlyle, standing before Franklin's portrait, remarked, 'There is the father of all Yankees.' Max Weber in his thesis on the ethic of modern capitalism and its evolution from puritanism gives Poor Richard as a prime example."

But she goes on:

"In truth, if we had no more from Franklin's pen than Father Abraham's advice on the 'Way to Wealth,' we would have a picture of a shrewd tradesman and nothing else. Common sense is hardly an endearing quality, and Poor Richard says nothing about that whole hearted joy in living which was one of Franklin's most noticeable traits. It seems almost as if, with Father Abraham, Franklin was teaching care and thrift not to the world but to himself, knowing well he needed the lesson. Until the age of twenty-four, he had had a truly difficult time making a living, seldom being free of debt. Nor did Franklin admire shrewdness in others: Poor Richard remarks that cunning proceeds from want of capacity, remarks also that 'avarice, and happiness never saw each other, how then should they become acquainted?'"

Although Franklin's role, unintentional or not, in the formation of the great myths of American capitalism is a mark against him, we must also remember that he did not practice what he preached. Much of the money he made he gave away; he declined to patent his stove; and if he encouraged puritans amongst us he also encouraged others as in his fascinating advice to a friend on the desirability of relations with older women in which he notes graphically how the body deteriorates from the head down.

He was a practitioner of joy and amid his efforts at improving himself and his society, he found time to write a drinking song that ended:

*From this piece of history plainly we find  
That water's good neither for body or mind  
That virtue and safety in wine-bibbing's found  
While all that drink water deserve to be drowned.*

Yet Franklin's joy did not involve a search for the ultimate high. He would not have been a good consumer of contemporary values in drugs, psychology, politics, economics or religion. Somewhere he remarks that happiness comes not from great strokes of good fortunes but from the little felicities of every day. That single thought, if subscribed to by a substantial number of those described in a recent Village Voice as "consumers of change," would knock the bottom out of the drug, supertherapy and cult market overnight.

Reading Franklin, in fact, is good therapy. He understood human motivation and psychology extraordinarily well. And his handle on religion is a delight. Almost wrecked off the Scilly Isles, Franklin landed on a Sunday morning, heard bells and went to church: "We went thither immediately and with hearts full of gratitude returned sincere thanks to God for the mercies we had received: were I a Roman Catholic, perhaps I should on this occasion vow to build a chapel to some saint: but as I am not, if I were to vow at all, it should be to build a light-house."

One month before he died, Franklin wrote a letter to the president of Yale who had asked for a confidential statement of his religious beliefs. In it, Franklin, suffering and barely alive, said:

THESE explanations of the Power and Operation of POINTS, when they first occurred to me, and while they floated in my Mind, appear'd perfectly satisfactory: But now I have wrote them, and considered them more closely in black and white, I must own, I have some Doubts about them. Yet as I have at present Nothing better to offer in their Stead, I do not cross them out: for even a bad Solution read, and it's Faults discovered, has often given Rise to a good one in the Mind of an ingenious Reader. Nor is it of much Importance to us, to know the Manner in which Nature executes her Laws; 'tis enough, if we know the Laws themselves. 'Tis of real Use to know that China left in the Air unsupported, will fall and break; but how it comes to fall, and why it breaks, are Matters of Speculation. 'Tis a Pleasure indeed to know them, but we can preserve our China without it.

— B. FRANKLIN.

"As to Jesus of Nazareth, my Opinion of whom you particularly desire, I think the System of Morals and his Religion, as he left them to us, the best the World ever saw or is likely to see; but I apprehend it has received various corrupting Changes, and I have, with most of the present Dissenters in England, some Doubts as to his Divinity; 'tho it is a question I do not dogmatize upon, having never studied it, and think it needless to busy myself with it now, when I expect soon an Opportunity of knowing the Truth with less Trouble. I see no harm, however, in its being believed, if that Belief has the good Consequence, as probably it has, of making his Doctrines more respected and better observed; especially as I do not perceive that the Supreme takes it amiss, by distinguishing the Unbelievers in his Government of the World with any peculiar Marks of his Displeasure. . ."

To the end, Franklin's humor and perspective remained. Even at the most serious moment, he would let a wry thought slip from his lips. He was one of the most intelligent individuals this country has produced yet unlike so many contemporary intellectuals, he was not contemptuous of non-intellectuals, proud that Americans generally could live in "happy mediocrity." He was not a foe of popular culture, but rather of pomposity and elite special interest.

Further, he knew how to grow old. He grew, not as we are accustomed to people growing — inactive, conservative and timid, but from the preachy author of Poor Richard into a revolutionary who signed the Declaration of Independence at the age of 70 and who in his eighties became president of the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery and the Relief of Free Negroes.

At the end of Ms. Bowen's book are two notes from her tapes:

• "From Tyler's Literary History of the American Revolution: 'It is only by continuous reading of the entire body of Franklin's Revolutionary writings, from grave to gay, from lively to severe, that anyone can know how brilliant was his wisdom or how wise was his brilliance, or how humane and gentle were both. . .'"

• "And he had that quality that I call 'grace.'"

— SAM SMITH

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	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN	
MIDNIGHT TO 5:30	NIGHTWATCH					NIGHTWATCH		MIDNIGHT TO 6:00
5:30 TO 7:00	JAZZ ANTHOLOGY - TO 6:30					JAZZ ANTHOLOGY		6:00 TO 7:00
7:00 TO 9:00	READING ALOUD - TO 7:00					JOHN DILDINE FOLK MUSIC	FOLK MUSIC BERNSTEIN	7:00 TO 8:00
9:00 TO 10:30	MORNINGLINE					BLUEGRASS	ECOLOGY	8:00 TO 9:00
10:30 TO 11:30	KALEIDOSCOPE						STAINED GLASS BLUEGRASS	9:00 TO 10:00
11:30 TO 12:30	READING ALOUD						GALAXIS	10:00 TO 11:00
12:30 TO 1:00	NEWS DAY - FIRST EDITION LANGUAGE PROGRAMS						SINGER'S WLD	11:00 TO 12:00
1:00 TO 4:00	MEASURE BY MEASURE					PA' LA LOMA	MUSIC FROM GERMANY	12:00 TO 1:00
4:00 TO 5:00	BOOKMARK					SPIRITS	IN PRAISE OF MUSIC	1:00 TO 2:30
5:00 TO 6:00	NEWS DAY - SECOND EDITION					KNOWN & UNKNOWN	THE NEWTHING ROOT MUSIC SHOW	2:30 TO 4:00
6:00 TO 7:00	'OL HOWARD'S ROCK'N'ROLL JUKEBOX					THE BEST OF ROCK		4:00 TO 5:00
7:00 TO 8:00	INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMMING					JAZZ REVISITED		5:00 TO 6:00
8:00 TO 9:30	ALL THINGS CONSIDERED . . .					78 GROVE	FROM THE EDITOR' FILE	6:00 TO 7:00
9:30 TO 10:00	COLUMBIA WSP	TIME & SPACE	GUNSMOKE	I'M SORRY...	X MINUS ONE	QUARTET	O'SEAS MISS'N	7:00 TO 8:00
10:00 TO 11:00	BLUEGRASS				THE JERRY GRAY SHOW	SEALED BEAM	OTHERS SEE US 30 MINUTES	8:00 TO 9:00
11:00 TO MIDNIGHT						TIME MACHINE	SOUND STAGE	9:00 TO 10:00
						SOUND, COLOR, MOVEMENT	RECOLL- ECTIONS	10:00 TO MIDNIGHT
							THE BIG SOUND	

# THROUGH DC BY BUS



FOR MORE GOOD  
BOOKS, SEE PAGE 8

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THROUGH DC BY BUS: A GUIDE TO THE BEST BUS ROUTES IN TOWN is a unique guide that shows in clear maps where the most useful bus routes go in DC. Listed are those routes that provide frequent all-day service within the city. The guide maps are done on a section by section basis. Opposite each section map is another map showing where the bus routes go after leaving that section. In addition, the guide contains maps of the individual routes, a guide to which routes cross which other routes, and a list of local points of interest with the bus routes that serve them. This guide is a must for anyone who rides the buses or who has thought about riding them but doesn't know how. Save gas and taxi fares! Ride the bus with the aid of the Gazette Bus Guide. Only \$2 plus tax.

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